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POLLUTION OF OYSTER BEDS.

COURT DECIDES THAT LESSEE OF OYSTER BEDS IS NOT ENTITLED TO DAMAGES FROM A CITY BECAUSE OF POLLUTION BY SEWAGE.

A lessee of oyster beds sued the city of Hampton, Va., for damages caused by the pollution of the beds by the city sewage. He rented the beds from the State after the sewerage was established and with knowledge of the pollution.

The Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia decided that the city had the right to empty its sewage into the tidal waters and that the plaintiff could not recover damages.

The court said:

The State guards the health of its people for the benefit and protection of the public at large, and under present sanitary standards sewerage systems for all thickly settled communities have become an imperative necessity, a public right, which is superior to the leasing by the State of a few acres of oyster land within the corporate limits of a city to an individual at \$1 per acre per annum. When the plaintiff leased this land, he took it with full knowledge of the then existing sewerage emptying into Hampton Creek and subject to the public right to increase the same as necessity required on account of the growth in population of the city of Hampton.

The opinion is printed in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 2113.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

From a circular issued by the Department of Health of the city of New York.

Infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) is a catching disease. How it is spread is not yet definitely known. In most cases the disease is probably taken directly from a sick person, but it may be spread indirectly through a third person who has been taking care of the patient, or children who have been living in the same household.

The early symptoms are usually fever, weakness, fretfulness or irritability, and vomiting. There may or may not be acute pain at this time. Later, there is pain in the neck, back, arms or legs, with